



CANNON BUILDING  
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STATE OF DELAWARE  
**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

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<b>PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES:</b>	<b>Board of Speech Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers</b>
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME:</b>	<b>Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.</b>
<b>PLACE:</b>	861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, Delaware <b>Conference Room B</b> , second floor of the Cannon Building
<b>MINUTES APPROVED</b>	01/15/2013

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lisa Marencin, Professional Member, President, Presiding  
Valerie Cloutier, Public Member, Secretary  
Roberta Burtch, Professional Member  
Tonya Coats, Professional Member  
Wilbert Miller, Public Member  
Dr. Jennifer Xenakes, Professional Member

**DIVISION STAFF**

Jessica Williams, Administrative Specialist II

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dr. Mary Ann Connolly-Gaskin, Professional Member  
Anne Pikolas, Public Member  
Meredith Sullivan, Professional Member

**ALSO PRESENT**

Michelle Blankenship  
Linda Belaino  
Tracy Bombara  
Doreen Brown  
Kathleen Capitan  
Priscilla Danielson  
Dale Gregore  
Terrie Hanchauck  
Jill Harman  
Pam Reuther  
Bryan Smith  
Nina Straitman  
Wendy Strauss

Jennifer Thomas  
Jacqueline Truluck  
Kathy Vacek  
Linda Vallin  
Christine Virion

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Marencin called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

#### **Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2012**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the October 16, 2012 meeting. Ms. Cloutier made a motion, seconded by Ms. Coats, to approve the minutes as written. Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Burtch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cloutier to amend the August 21, 2012 SLPA Committee minutes to reflect that Ms. Burtch was opposed to sending the proposal to the Board. Motion unanimously carried.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Sign Order from Discussion Held on October 16, 2012 on the Hearing Officer's Report for Rule to Show Cause Hearing for Kathleen White**

Dr. Xenakes made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cloutier to accept the Final Order on the Hearing Officer's Report for the Rule to Show Cause Hearing for Kathleen White. Motion unanimously carried. Ms. Marencin affixed her signature to the Order.

#### **Consider Consent Agreement for Case 30-01-11 against Sherman Fong**

The Board considered the consent agreement for Case 30-01-11 against Sherman Fong. Ms. Marencin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cloutier, to accept the consent agreement. Motion unanimously carried. An Order was circulated for Board members' signatures.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Update from Tele-Practice Committee**

Ms. Cloutier informed the Board that Dr. Xenakes invited Priscilla Danielson, who delivers tele-practice services in Pennsylvania to address some of the Committee's concerns and to answer any questions they may have had. Ms. Cloutier advised the Board that the proposed regulations will clearly state that an individual practicing via tele-practice, must be licensed by the Delaware Board. The Committee will be meeting in January to review the draft of the proposed changes.

### Review of Continuing Education Activities

Dr. Xenakes made a motion, seconded by Ms. Coats, to approve the following continuing education activity as noted below. Motion unanimously carried.

Sponsor: Delaware Autism Program      **Approved**  
Activity: Administration & Scoring of the ADOS Toddler  
Contact Hours: 6.5 CS

### Ratification of Permanent Speech Pathologist Applications

Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Burtch, to ratify the permanent speech pathologist application for Meka Battle. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Burtch, to ratify the permanent speech pathologist application for Loretta Martin. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Burtch, to ratify the permanent speech pathologist application for Katie McDavid. Motion unanimously carried.

### Ratification of Temporary Speech Pathologist Application

Ms. Cloutier made a motion, seconded by Ms. Burtch, to ratify the temporary speech pathologist application for Erika Krakower. Motion unanimously carried.

### Review Permanent Speech Pathologist Applications

Ms. Cloutier made a motion, seconded by Dr. Xenakes, to approve the permanent speech pathologist application for Pamela Lockhart. Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Cloutier made a motion, seconded by Dr. Xenakes, to approve the permanent speech pathologist application for Glenna Pusey. Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Cloutier made a motion, seconded by Dr. Xenakes, to approve the permanent speech pathologist application for Thomas Sullivan. Motion unanimously carried.

### Review of Temporary Speech Pathologist Application

Dr. Xenakes made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cloutier, to approve the temporary speech pathologist application for Emily Galgon. Motion unanimously carried.

### Review Hearing Aid Dispenser Supervisory Report

The Board reviewed Shawn Butler's hearing aid dispenser supervisory report. Ms. Cloutier made a motion, seconded by Ms. Marencin, to approve Shawn Butler to sit for the National Exam proctored by the Division of Professional Regulation. Motion unanimously carried.

### **OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD**

Ms. Heeney asked the Board for clarification regarding supervision of a temporary hearing aid dispenser licensee. If an individual has an active temporary hearing aid dispenser license, is supervision still required after completing the six month training period? Ms. Heeney advised the Board that the regulations are silent on this issue. The Board determined that at least 25% supervision is still required during the licensure period. The Board decided that a rule revision is required to clarify that supervision is required, and the proposed regulation will be drafted once the tele-practice regulations are completed.

### **Discussion of Proposed Statutory Revision**

#### **Review Correspondence from Jennifer Menard Regarding Proposed Statutory Revisions**

The Board reviewed the correspondence submitted by Jennifer Menard opposing the proposed statutory revisions which would create SLPA's.

#### **Review Feedback of Proposed Statutory Provisions from DSHA**

The Board reviewed the written comments regarding the proposed statutory provisions submitted by DSHA.

#### **Review Feedback of Proposed Statutory Provisions from Brandywine School District SLP's**

The Board reviewed the feedback of the proposed statutory revisions submitted by SLP's who are currently employed with Brandywine School District.

### **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **Other Business before the Board**

There was no other business before the Board.

### **Public Comment**

Jennifer Thomas, from Christiana Care Health System, addressed the Board and voiced her concerns regarding the proposed statutory changes. She believes that the proposed regulations lack specificity of the treatment of swallowing disorders and that ASHA's SLPA proposal is more detailed in regards to swallowing disorders and treatment. Ms. Thomas suggested that the number of SLPA's be limited within the hospital setting.

Dale Gregore, from Christiana Care Health System, voiced her concerns regarding the proposed regulations. Ms. Gregore believes that having a SLP program within the State would be more beneficial to the public. She does not feel that an SLPA would receive adequate course with the suggested courses listed in the proposed regulations. Ms. Gregore stated that she would not hire someone for an SLPA position because of their limited use and effectiveness.

Nina Straitman, from A.I. Dupont Hospital for Children, addressed the Board, advising the Board that PTA and COTA licensure requires six rigorous semesters of education and believes that an SLPA's education requirements should be no different.

Linda Belaino, from A.I. Dupont Hospital for Children, believes that the proposed regulations are setting both the supervisor and the SLPA up for failure. She also noted that the draft does not discuss testing the SLPA's knowledge regarding competence and skills.

Christine Virion thanked the Board for the draft and stated that forums were held in Newark and Smyrna for DHSA members to discuss the proposed regulations. While Ms. Virion is not opposed to the proposal, she does believe that changes need to be made before they are finalized.

Pam Reuther, the Director of Easter Seals Therapy Services, voiced her concerns regarding the proposed regulations. She believes that SLPA's should be required to graduate with an associate's degree in their respective fields, complete clinical training and pass a licensure exam. Ms. Reuther believes that the proposed curriculum fails to include sufficient requirements in background sciences, language disorders, treatment techniques, intervention and professional studies.

Tracy Bombara, approached the Board and advised the members that she was on the Governor's Task Force to address the shortages of SLP's in Delaware. She stated that the 2004 ASHA Requirements are vastly different from the proposed regulations. Ms. Bombara discussed required supervision hours and submitted a document to the Board detailing the direct supervision hours the Board is for temporary licensure and permanent licensure versus ASHA Guidelines. The document also included direct supervision recommendations from DSHA.

Kathleen Vacek approached the Board voicing her concerns with the proposed regulations. She is concerned about caseload selections and liability of the supervisory SLP for actions of the SLPA when not working under direct supervision.

Kathleen Capitan addressed the Board to discuss her concerns regarding the supervision requirements and does not believe that pre-written treatment plans would not benefit the patient, and that modifying the techniques for the patient is often required.

Michelle Blankenship, from Easter Seals, approached the Board to discuss the proposed regulations. While ASHA's guidelines would require a SLPA to have education courses in anatomy and physiology, phonetics, speech, and audiometry, Delaware is suggesting a degree in an allied health field. She believes that an SLPA completing the courses that Delaware is suggesting will not adequately prepare the students.

Doreen Brown, from Easter Seals, voiced her concerns, stating that she believes that the proposal contains substandard requirements, broad definitions, and a lack of safeguards. She encouraged the Board to reach out to stakeholders to assist with the proposed changes.

Jacqueline Truluck addressed the Board regarding the proposed regulations. She stated that University of Delaware Student who are enrolled in the undergraduate program may be

excluded from becoming an SLPA. She believes that the undergrads would be a great foundation, although they may need to complete additional coursework.

Terrie Hancherick, advised the Board that she was on the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens, a mother of a disabled child, requested to have a copy of the proposed draft.

Wendy Strauss was also on the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens and would like to be involved with drafting the proposed regulations.

Ms. Burtch thanked the members of the public for their feedback, and for clearing out their schedule to voice their concerns regarding the proposed regulatory changes.

Ms. Burtch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cloutier, to send the proposed regulations back to the Committee for revisions. The Committee will meet on January 15, 2013. Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Truluck inquired as to if she could distribute the draft to non-DSHA members. Ms. Heeney stated that it would not be fruitful to distribute an old draft to stakeholders.

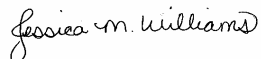
### **Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2013, at 2:00 p.m., in Conference Room B, second floor of the Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, Delaware.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Marencin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried. There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica M. Williams  
Administrative Specialist II